

Who are we?

The Lake County Planning Commission (the Commission) was first organized in Lake County on April 16, 1927 as an advisory board to the County Commissioners and all its communities until March of 1931 when for reasons not documented, it became inactive. Ohio Revised Code 713.22 was passed in October 1955, establishing the ability for the Board of County Commissioners to create a county planning commission. On September 7, 1956, the Commission was reactivated. The Commission has 11 members: eight community members appointed by the County Commissioners and the three County Commissioners. Today, our staff includes the Planning Director, Senior Planner, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant. Our jurisdiction includes the five townships of the County. We also provide contractual services to the municipalities of Lake County.

What We Do at the Lake County Planning Commission?

Planning of course! Planning is a comprehensive, coordinated, continuing process, the purpose of which is to help public and private decision makers arrive at decisions which promote the common good of the community. The Planning discipline is broken into two categories: current (short term) vs. comprehensive (long term) planning. Current planning activities include administering subdivisions, active site plans, zoning amendments and other administrative functions. In addition to Comprehensive/Master Plans, long term planning activities include corridor plans, neighborhood plans, demographic forecasts, and coastal planning.

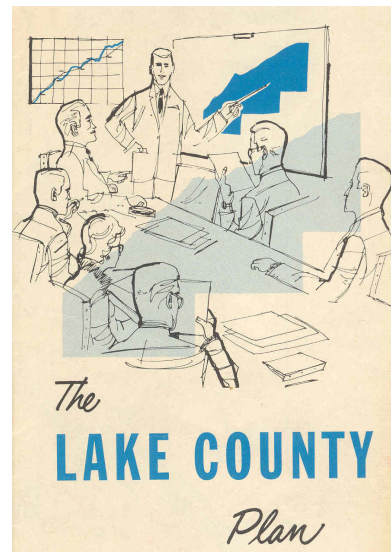
In the past few years, we have dramatically increased our comprehensive planning activities throughout Lake County. We have assisted communities in planning their futures by studying their past, the needs of the citizens, and the environment in which they live, work and play.

Among the planning services we offer, writing **comprehensive plans** are the most wide-ranging. Comprehensive plans are documents that are used as frameworks for policy direction, land use / zoning decisions and other actions affecting the physical, economic, and social aspects of the community. It indicates a general way as to how local government leaders and citizens want the community to develop (or not) in the future. A comprehensive plan is general, far-reaching, and is a long-range working document to providing a base from which decisions can be made. The document should be revised every 5-7 years in order to maintain consistency with community expectations, demographic changes, market shifts or legal mandates.

The comprehensive plan is developed through an open, participatory process driven by four broad-reaching questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where are we going?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How do we get there?

Future 2010 editions of *Lakeviews*, will provide a detailed explanation of steps 1-4 noted above to help guide your community through the comprehensive planning process.



1959 Comprehensive Plan
(LCPC archives)